

# HYMANS NAMED NATION LEAGUE CHIEF AT MEET

Former Premier of Belgium Elected President With 35 Votes.

## AMERICA IS CHEERED

Miss Representative Grateful for Geneva Selection; Sees U. S. Soon Member.

GENEVA, Nov. 15.—M. Paul-Hymans, former Premier of Belgium, was elected president of the league of nations assembly today. He received thirty-five of the forty-two votes.

Hymans, in an address immediately following his election, declared there was a possibility that the covenant would be amended. "We do not pretend the covenant is perfect or that it can't be improved," he declared.

Premier Motta, of Switzerland, who welcomed the delegates, received four votes for the presidency; H. H. Ador, of England, and Leon Bourgeois, France, one each.

Motta declared the world would realize why the honor had been awarded a Belgian.

"I wish U. S. Delay No Longer," the Swiss premier declared he hoped most ardently that the United States will not longer delay ratification of her legitimate seat in the assembly.

"Although there are plainly evident chasm and inevitable imperfections in the covenant," he said, "the foundation will stand even if the first work collapses."

Prolonged applause greeted first mention of the United States. "Washington is the home of liberty and the United States cannot long remain out of the league," Premier Motta, of Switzerland, declared. The opening session was filled with enthusiasm.

Only One Woman Delegate. Only one woman delegate presented herself. She was Mme. Wickfeldt of Sweden.

The credentials of Lord Robert Cecil, English delegate from South Africa, were approved, but M. Tiffoni, French representative on the committee, declared the question should be studied and regulated for the future. It was believed a ruling will be made that delegates must be citizens of the country they represent.

Hymans in his inaugural address denied the league was in any way a super state, threatening the sovereignty of any nation.

Call Scheme "Clearing House." "It is rather a clearing house," he said, "designed to facilitate frequent contact between various states with a development of understanding and sympathy."

The Swiss premier courteously referred to the fact that Geneva had been chosen over Brussels as the permanent seat of the league and linked it with a tribute to King Albert. The mention of the name brought renewed applause.

Motta declared the world hoped for economic reconstruction to grow out of the assembly's debate. He suggested the breaking up of monopolies on raw materials as a necessary step.

Wilson's Message Read. Hymans, Belgium, presided over the opening session. He called the gathering to order by reading President Wilson's convocation. He declared that the league, starting with forty-two members, was certain of its future. He declared it would be most effective as the agent for a new era of international co-operation and harmony.

The session today was occupied with routine affairs. Following the convocation and welcoming address, the credentials commission was appointed and the delegates adjourned.

# 4,000 Years Old, Stamp Has Face of Ibi-Sin, King

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 15.—Postage stamps were used in Babylon 4,000 years ago. And not only that, there was a system of registered mail in use by the ancients. Philatelists and archaeologists are evincing considerable interest in a specimen of the stamps of that period which has been discovered in the University of Pennsylvania Museum.

The portrait on the stamp is that of Ibi-Sin, last king of Ur, known to Bible students as Ur of the Chaldees. It is dated in Babylonian what would be translated now as 2300 B. C. There was no such thing as mauling in those days so Ibi had the stamp made with a hole in the corner so that it could be attached to the letter by a string.

An additional value connected with the discovery is that it gives a clue to the personal appearance of the Sumerians, who were not a Semitic race. Examination of the figures on the tablet shows that they were clean shaven.

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Chief of Police Goods yesterday received a complete modern finger print outfit for detecting criminals. J. Herbert Taylor, a resident of Alexandria, and head of the navy finger-print department, presented it to the city.

Alexandria police are spending their spare time learning how to operate the system. Chief Goods expects to have a record of the finger impressions of every shady character in the city before long.

# 2 CHANGES PROPOSED Junior and Senior Bodies to Investigate and Judge Case Merits.

G. O. P. Believed to Have Workable Plan for World Association.

Following a visit to Washington during which he conferred with many prominent members of the Republican party, former Secretary of State Root, it was learned last night, expected entire confidence that a workable plan for an association of nations would come out of the discussions in the Senate. He then returned to New York.

The latter organization will have Europe where many statesmen informed him France, England and Italy would accept vital amendments to the original league plan, but visit here on the eve of the Geneva Conference is regarded as having the utmost significance.

Has Two Main Features. As advocated by Root while in Washington, the scope of the proposed association is understood to embrace two main features.

First, agreement among the nations for creation of a junior official body which will conduct investigations into all disputes likely to lead to war.

Second, creation of a senior body, properly known as a court, before which the investigations can lay their findings and which will decide upon the merits of the case.

The latter organization will have authority to make recommendations as to the course that should be followed by the parties to the controversy but will not have anything more than moral power to enforce them.

Find Article X Dead. Root is understood to have found practical unanimity among leading Republicans of all shades of opinion that it will be impossible to induce the Senate to agree to any covenant that would impose any such obligations as now rest in Article X. All insisted that this government be absolved from any pledge to go to war.

One of the main problems considered was whether or not an association structure such as will be acceptable to the Senate can be built out of the present House of Representatives. Root believes that it can.

Others maintained that the American people are so much opposed to arbitration that an entirely new association must be negotiated.

Visit Is Mystery. While here Root surrounded his movements with the greatest mystery. The object of his journey, he told newspaper men, was to confer with the Fine Arts Commission on the site for the proposed Roosevelt Memorial but not one member of that body could be found who even remembered his name.

One Republican leader known to be in sympathy with practically all reactionary views held by Root first became embarrassed and finally enraged when asked if he had seen Root.

The campaign of Alice Robertson, newly elected Congresswoman from the Second Oklahoma District, cost \$2,940, according to a report filed with the clerk of the House of Representatives yesterday.

A deficit of \$265 exists in her campaign fund, which Mrs. Robertson, a fund-raiser, said will be made up by a fund to "ratify the results of the election."

Of her expenditures \$1,130 was for newspaper advertising and printing, and \$1,670 for what she called "organization and educational work." The balance was for miscellaneous expenses.

The largest contribution to her fund was made by Mrs. Robertson herself. It was \$600. The second largest contribution was \$100.

"I heartily approve the bill," said Commissioner Boardman, "and suggest that individual members of the club speak to members of both the Senate and House regarding it—not in the Capitol but at private functions. Much better results can be obtained outside than inside the Capitol," also pledge the support of the District Commissioners to the passage of the bill.

An amendment to the present school census was advocated by Superintendent Ballou. He advised the enrollment of children from birth.

# Noted Statesman May Change Pact

Easy to Pick Flaws in Huge Marine Operations, Admiral's Plea.

ADMIRAL BENS ON PLEDGE New Agreement Is Defended As Best Plan to Conserve Public Interest.

PLEADING THAT IN SUCH gigantic operations as were rushed to speedy conclusion by the Shipping Board, it is humanly impossible to prevent all graft and corruption, Admiral Benson, chairman of that organization, last night pledged himself to bring all the wrong-doers to justice.

"As a former Naval officer who shipped forty-eight years ago to serve his country, I believe that my fellow countrymen can depend upon it that no wrong-doer will escape if his wrong-doing is called to my attention," said the Admiral.

Although this pledge was given in an address before the South Atlantic Ports Association, Charleston, S. C., it was made public in Washington.

Easy to Criticize. "It is an easy matter for anyone to pick flaws in an organization like the Shipping Board," said Admiral Benson. "We had to train 300,000 shipbuilders, and in the training of our ships we had to train thousands of men. The Sea Service Bureau alone placed a total of 160,000 officers and men during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1920."

"In an organization of this magnitude, you will find here and there evidences of wrong-doing, and now and then you will uncover a systematic effort to defraud."

"It was necessary for the Shipping Board to take a very difficult responsibility was the uncovering of wrong-doing and these men were charged with a heavy responsibility."

The men who we depended upon to be checks upon those who might be tempted to do wrong bear a heavy responsibility, if they failed us, but in an organization spending more than three billions of dollars, it would be impossible to prevent all wrong-doing or to do business without suffering financial losses from time to time.

Mistakes Were Possible. "If mistakes have been made they were mistakes that naturally may be expected in such a stupendous enterprise involving, as it does, the active employment of more than 1,600 sea-going vessels, with the manifold problems involved in ship operation and the settlement of thousands of claims which come as a result of an effort to be fair to those men who when we needed their services placed their facilities at our disposal and endeavored to do everything within their power to help this country."

The report of special investigators to the Walsh committee lays particular stress on a new agreement between the board and private operators of government vessels which, it charges, will give the operators more leeway than they have ever had before.

Admitting that the new agreement was accepted after consultation with the private shipping interests, Admiral Benson disagrees with the conclusion of the investigation.

Agreement Followed Long Study. "The new agency agreement for the operation of the Shipping Board's fleet was accepted after months of exhaustive study by a committee on agents' agreements, composed of representatives of the board and all the steamship associations of the country," he explained, "and the recommendation of that committee, and, therefore, has the support and backing of the steamship men themselves—both owners and non-owners."

"Under this agreement the agent will get nothing at all if he lets a ship lie idle. His commissions being based on the freight collected, he must secure cargo, not only secure cargo, but secure it at the best possible freight rates and dispatch the ship quickly."

The board is now considering a plan for the gradual reduction of private operators will gradually be given almost complete independence of operation, and whereby the board's personnel and overhead expenses, particularly in foreign ports, will be greatly reduced.

BAGGAGE MAN HELD IN BIG MAIL ROBBERY OMAHA, Nov. 15.—Federal officials today arrested Merle Phillips, 20, railway baggage employee, as one of the men who participated in the robbery of a mail car on a fast train.

Phillips, confessed to forcing his way into the car and threw up the pouches which were picked up by accomplices. Names of the other two men were said to have been given by Phillips.

# WRANGLER, IN LAST WORDS BEFORE DEFEAT, REGRETS WORLD TURNED DEAF EAR

Overwhelmed by Reds After Heroic Struggle, Russian General Bows to Destiny.

SEBASTOPOL, Nov. 12, via Constantinople and Paris, Nov. 15 (Delayed).—Yesterday afternoon Gen. Wrangel, head of the government of South Russia sent for the Washington Herald-Public Ledger correspondent to come to see him at his headquarters in the palace in Sebastopol.

Unbowed by adverse fortune, though utterly hopeless, cool and collected as in bygone days of victory, the last Russian crusader against Red tyranny made the following statement:

"For three years brave and honest men who refused to bow under the yoke of Red barbarism have been carrying on an unequal struggle. Seven months ago our cause seemed completely lost. At that time I placed myself at the head of the army. I appealed to all who still lived in the hope to see their country reborn. I called them to help me in my task."

"During the last seven months, we have been fighting, abandoned by all, against an enemy ten times as superior in numbers. The army has performed miracles of valor; without clothing, lacking all necessary material, it has nevertheless during this period taken more than 87,000 prisoners and 300 guns."

"In spite of great difficulties the statesmen who grouped themselves around me succeeded in solving several important social questions and in many respects we had found the right way to allow the Russian people to organize its social and political life according to its own wishes. We hoped all the time that the civil-

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lized world would recognize the magnitude of our efforts and would understand we were fighting not only for our own country but for world civilization. Unfortunately the help which we needed, and which we never came. Poland who we saved from annihilation by drawing to our front five Red armies concluded peace and the great powers observed without intervening the concentration against us of the greatest part of the Bolshevik forces."

"Today I have against me all the best troops the Bolsheviks can put in the field. My five divisions, weakened by previous losses, are being attacked by twenty-eight enemy divisions. For the last seven days the enemy has attacked us without ceasing; my army is tired white. In order to hold my lines I have been forced to occupy trenches with dismounted Cossacks. I have given my army orders to cover the embarkation of our wounded officers and of the women and children who let themselves be massacred by the Reds."

"When these refugees leave the Crimea they will be without a country. I place them under the protection of the civilized world and I appeal for them to the loyalty and the humanity of all nations for whose cause the Russian people has during the last six years been shedding streams of blood."

The general turned away and exclaimed—with the only gesture he used during the entire interview, a gesture of pride and resignation: "Even valor has its limits." Silently he extended his hand and the last interview the bravest and most efficient of Russia's anti-Bolshevik leaders will end grant on Russian soil was at an end. (Copyright, 1920, by Public Ledger Co.)

Unjust criticism of Washington motorists as being responsible for the large number of automobile accidents in the District was deplored last night by Commissioner J. Thimmon Hendrick, who declared, in a talk before the Central Citizens' Association at the Juvenile Court, that the blame in a majority of cases rests with pedestrians.

The average Washington pedestrian is careless, he said, and "fails to remember that the human machine is not as perfect as the mechanical machine requires minutes to accomplish the same operation."

Commissioner Hendrick said the remedy for the city's traffic difficulties will be found when a larger force of motorized police are provided to deal with those who violate regulations and when pedestrians learn to control their own actions.

Capt. Robert E. Doyle, of the Sixth precinct, followed Hendrick with a talk on the traffic situation. He said the casualties were due equally to pedestrians and drivers and advocated a larger traffic force.

Thomas J. Donovan, president of the association, told of reports that the District refuse plant and stables were to be moved to First and M streets northeast. A resolution, declaring such action would be a menace to the health of residents of the section, was passed by the association.

Other resolutions adopted last night endorsed the appointment of Commissioners Hendrick and Boardman and asked for an investigation of the city's traffic situation. The resolutions should not be reduced as a result of declining price of flour.

Chairmen of the following committees were named last night: Improvements, James Dugan; membership, Charles Fahy; railroads, Robert A. Dore; police and fire departments, Robert MacMackin; streets and sidewalks, Dr. Duncan and Henry Miller, vice chairman; sanitation, Dr. E. M. Mulcahy, and legislation, Leo A. Rovur.

# YANK RESCUE SHIPS GATHER FOR BLACK SEA

Sebastopol Reported Lost Before Wild Avalanche Of Red Army.

WHITE FORCE DOOMED Bolshevik Troops Score Crushing Victory in Crimea.

LONDON, Nov. 15.—Dispatches from Constantinople today state that Sebastopol, the last stronghold of Gen. Wrangel, has been evacuated. Occupation of the city by the Reds is imminent. The White army was practically wiped out before the outer defenses of Sebastopol where three of Wrangel's divisions for hours held off repeated assaults of twenty-three Red divisions.

So critical is the situation in the Crimea that Rear Admiral Newton A. McCully, in command of the United States squadron at Sebastopol, yesterday appealed for as many additional ships as possible to care for the great flood of civilian refugees, many of whom were Americans.

The entire Crimea, Admiral McCully said, is being evacuated amid privation and suffering that is almost unbelievable.

Two cruisers, two fuel ships, eight destroyers were immediately put at Admiral McCully's disposal and will be rushed to Sebastopol with all possible speed. The entire fleet will be under command of Rear Admiral Mark Smith, United States Commissioner at Constantinople.

The fleet includes practically all American warships in the Mediterranean, Adriatic and Black seas, and it is understood that most of the ships do not need repairs. In directing Admiral Smith to dispatch this fleet, Acting Secretary of State Norman Davis instructed him to co-operate with the representatives of Great Britain and France at Constantinople, who are also sending ships.

In taking such wholesale measures of relief, the State Department announced that it acted entirely upon humanitarian grounds, hoping to assist as many Russians as possible. "We are sure," it added, "that the Russian people will be able to take care of themselves."

Reports received here state that the refugees at Sebastopol, in a number more than 50,000 and that vast crowds are flocking in every day. In their famished condition they have already raided American Red Cross warehouses here. The disposition of such a stupendous mass of fleeing humanity most of whom are ill and many of whom are without clothes is greatly perplexing government officials here. Constantinople, the nearest big city under control of the former allies, is already overcrowded and is without sufficient food or medical supplies for them. It has been suggested that they be segregated upon Prinkipo Island.

It is understood here that French ships and troops are being ordered to return to Gen. Wrangel and as many as possible of his soldiers. Admiral McCully will not participate in any move of that kind.

LONDON, Nov. 15.—Reports that Sebastopol has been evacuated confirm the general trend of news for the past forty-eight hours. The evacuation of the city, however, has been reported by the British and French warships and members of the staff, who were at Sebastopol, were, according to the dispatches, taken on board a French warship and are on the way to Constantinople.

Sebastopol was the center today of the wild debacle. Its harbor was filled with craft ranging from war vessels to rowboats, all carrying human cargoes away from the ruins of the city. Wrangel's army was in collapse and the conquering Bolshevik troops swept southwest upon the city.

The White troops were practically wiped out by their defeat at the narrow neck of the peninsula where three divisions checked twenty-two assaults by twenty-eight divisions of the enemy.

The Soviet army broke through the stubborn defense finally and spread unchecked over the areas behind the line. The Soviet leaders were said to amount into the thousands after troops had been thrown time after time against the strong defense.

Armenians to Surrender Parts of Alexandropol The Armenian government agrees to surrender the city of Alexandropol on the east bank of the Arpa River and to withdraw ten kilometers to the terms of an armistice with the Turkish Nationalist forces received by the State Department here yesterday.

The Turkish forces had penetrated two hundred miles into Armenian territory when the latter government was forced to capitulate. The peace negotiators at Erzerum, it was said, will take place at Alexandropol.

Ferguson to Guard Harding. Reward for indefatigable work in the United States Secret Service has come to Walter G. Ferguson, member of the guard at the White House, who has been summoned to the Mexican Gulf Coast to join the party of President-elect Harding. "Fergie," as he is familiarly known to the White House staff and newspapermen, will remain with one of the Harding bodyguards throughout the trip to the Coast Zone.

Stand how to make your Xmas gift purchases

Legion Memorial Meet Put Off. NEW YORK, Nov. 15.—The meeting of the executive committee of the American Legion called for Indianapolis November 15 to pass on the \$5,000,000 Knights of Columbus memorial building has been postponed to take place probably in January. James Flaherty, K. of C. head and National Commander, F. W. Galbraith will meet in Philadelphia on Wednesday.

Dockery's Condition Improved. Assistant Postmaster General A. M. Dockery, who has been ill for the last week, is steadily improving. It was said last night at the Washington Sanitarium, Takoma Park, where Dockery is a patient.

Wrong Mother Receives News of Son's Death. LYNCHBURG, Va., Nov. 15.—Mrs. R. J. Brown, 203 Cabell street, received a telegram which said: "Harry Brown was killed today in an accident." Without noting the place from which the message came, Mrs. Brown immediately began to mourn the loss of her son.

Death Theater Owners Held for Negligence. NEW YORK, Nov. 15.—Barnett Weinberg and Max Schwartz, owners of a movie house, and their manager, Joseph Palani, were held today on charges of criminal negligence as a result of the panic which caused the death of six children in the theater yesterday. The three men were charged in criminal affidavits having been criminally negligent in having an exit door locked and failing to take precautions to safeguard their patrons.

British to Continue Gas Poison Experimentation. LONDON, Nov. 15.—Pending the decision of the league of nations on the use of poisonous gases in modern warfare, the British government has decided that it will continue its researches and experiments with gases, according to an announcement to Premier Lloyd George.

HARDING HAS ROUGH TRIP TO BROWNSVILLE. BROWNSVILLE, Tex., Nov. 15.—President-elect Harding arrived here at 3 o'clock this afternoon after riding one hour and forty-five minutes over the rough trail from Point Isabel.

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